Support Medication Therapy Management Empowerment Act of 2015

S.776

Issue:
The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) is asking for your support for the Medication Therapy Management Empowerment Act of 2015 (S.776). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a recently released rule recognized Medication Therapy Management Services (MTM) as tools for cost containment.

Background:
When passed in 2003, Congress included a provision for MTM services in Medicare Part D for beneficiaries including those with multiple chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and congestive heart failure. S. 776 would expand coverage for MTM services to beneficiaries with single chronic conditions like those listed above.

Further, CMS promotes the use of MTM as part of the Part D program because these services reduce the risk of adverse medication outcomes, optimize medication-based therapies, and help coordinate care between all providers. Care coordination is the cornerstone of effective cost containment in Medicare and Medicaid. MTM services help these, and other programs help achieve these saving by preventing adverse reactions in patients who are likely on multiple drugs due to multiple, or single chronic conditions. Whether a single or multiple chronic condition, these patients have complex medication regimes that require thorough management. Medication management can help prevent costly hospital stays.

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) supports S.776 and its expanded access to MTM services in long-term care (LTC) facilities and the community for single chronic conditions. Consultant pharmacists in MTM programs improve clinical outcomes by ensuring compliance, safety from drug interaction, and promoting the general health of the patient. MTM services ultimately lower costs to the patient and Medicare. ASCP supports S.776 as it shows the importance of consultant pharmacists in patient safety, lower healthcare costs, and improved outcomes.

Recommendations:
Sign on to S. 776 and expand access to Medication Therapy Management services to Medicare Part D beneficiaries with a single complex condition.